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Points on Live Stock Feeding.

Some noted breeders were present at the annual meeting of the Ohio Live Stock association and delivered interesting addresses. Feeding live stock was treated in a clear and comprehensive manner by Dr. H. C. Miller of Sunbury. He is a practical farmer and has made the care and feeding of stock a specialty. He is a graduate of the Ohio Veterinary college and a well known farmers' institute lecturer.

There are no feeding stuffs that are wholly nutritious or wholly non-nutritious in their nature, and, as both carbohydrates and protein are needed for whatever purpose an animal is fed, it is well that this is so, he said. Clover hay contains both kinds of nutrients so properly balanced that they make an almost perfect food without anything else. But clover hay is not so economical a food as corn, and something must be added thereto to make up the deficiency in protein.

Barley, cottonseed meal and many other foods are valuable, but not so economical at present prices as corn and soy beans. As a rule, land devoted to soy beans should be incultivated.

The crop costs about the same per acre as corn. No satisfactory method of harvesting has yet been devised. The production of hogs for market was ably presented by J. J. Ferguson, for some years instructor in animal husbandry in the Michigan Agricultural college, but now in charge of the animal food department of a Chicago packing firm. He spoke briefly of the different breeds of swine and mentioned the following as among the more desirable characteristics of a good breed: First, the ability to make a good use of a large amount of food; second, an aptitude or tendency to mature early; third, to show when slaughtered a small amount of offal or waste in proportion to live weight.

The modern improved breed should show an average gain of not less than one pound a day for the first eight months of its life. Feeding sheep for the International live stock exhibition was discussed by R. L. Stone of Stoughton, Ill. He is one of the most prominent breeders and successful exhibitors of sheep in this country. He had prepared a special lot for the great exhibition at Chicago and spoke from experience. He fed seventy-five or more lambs each of Oxford Down, Southdown and Shropshire together, treating all alike. The principal feed was corn and oats.

He began by feeding one bushel of corn a day and gradually increased it to five bushels. With the five bushels of corn he mixed two bushels of oats and supplemented this grain ration by clover, cabbage, mangolds and carrots. The Oxford Down was the heaviest throughout, but the Southdowns made the best showing at the butcher's block. With his method of feeding Mr. Stone thinks it possible to make a good average lot of lambs increase forty pounds each in ninety days.

Champion Devon Bull.
The western champion Devon bull shown in the illustration from Orange Judd Farmer is owned by an Illinois breeder. This breed of cattle are excellent animals—fatten readily, mature early and in more eastern sections of the country are prime favorites. They are especially desirable where steers are to be used as work animals.



A DEVON BULL.
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Feeding For Bacon.
There seems to be an opinion that the pigs designed for bacon must be fed along slowly until they have reached the required weights. This is a mistake, says a writer in National Stockman and Farmer. It should be borne in mind that young animals develop muscle while growing and not after. Therefore in order to secure the best results they must be fed with the object of rapid growth in view from start to finish. It is a good plan to encourage them to eat when three weeks old and feed them scalded middlings mixed in with milk while yet warm in a little trough where they can get to it and not be interfered with by larger animals. Clean the trough each time before putting in the next feeding of the mixture. Keep the appetite good by giving only as much as they can eat up clean quickly. As they grow along coarser feeds can be mixed in, such as corn and oats ground together and the hulle sifted out.

Pasturing The Ewes.
The date of turning the ewes on to pasture is a period needing care and judgment. It is safest to effect this change gradually by turning to pasture for a few hours daily and back to shelter at night, where a full ration of dry feed should await the ewes, writes a breeder in Country Gentleman. In this way may be avoided injury to the digestive system of the lambs, often resulting in death, which is caused by too great a supply of rich milk through the ewes' feeding heavily on new pastures. While until the ewe's system has become used to the change from dry feed to pasture it will be beneficial to supply a little dry feed, both hay and grain, generally, if the pasture is at all good, it will supply sufficient nutriment to the ewes, and it will not be necessary to feed any grain.

CARE OF THE BREEDERS.

They Must Be Kept In Good Condition at This Season of Year.

At this time of the year too much importance cannot be attached to the care of the breeding stock. If our breeders are in poor condition we must expect our chicks to be weak and lack vigor in vitality, says a writer in Successful Poultry Journal. Many breeders wonder why they lose so many chicks every year. They give the chicks the best of food and care, and still they lose large numbers. But often these same persons neglect the old birds from which they raise their chicks.

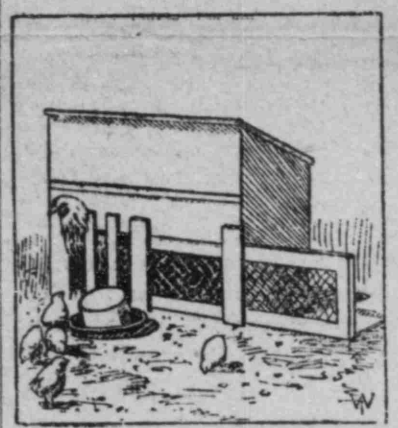
If possible at this time of year it is a good plan to have the birds on a grass range. The larger the range the better it will be for the birds. Eggs from birds on free range are always more fertile than from birds in yards. But some of us cannot give our birds free range. Then the best thing we can do is to as nearly as possible give our yarded birds the conditions they would have if they were on a free range. Most poultrymen know what these conditions are—green food, meat scraps, bone, etc.

I make a practice of feeding my male birds once a day separate from the hens. I have found this plan keeps these birds in better condition than they would otherwise be.

The hens, too, should be well fed. They cannot produce strong, hatchable eggs if they are thin and hungry. Neither can they if they are over fat. A happy medium should be obtained between these two extremes.

The breeding stock should not be kept in the same yard or pen with the young stock. If the young stock is given free range, as it should be, then the old birds should be confined. In this many breeders make a mistake. They allow the young and old birds to run together, much to the disadvantage of the younger and weaker ones. I have found that best results can be obtained by putting a male bird to six or eight hens and not over ten hens at the most. This applies to birds in confinement. If they have free range fifteen females are not too many for one vigorous male.

A Simple Brood Coop.
The brood coop herewith illustrated was designed by Victor D. Canaday of Taylor Falls, Minn. It is an extraordinarily simple affair and can be made of almost any box of suitable size turned on its side and slatted part way over the front. A frame covered with one inch mesh poultry wire is arranged to slide in and out, so that at night the brood may have plenty of air and still be protected from cats and dogs. During the day, when this wire covered frame is slid to one side, the hen is kept confined by the wooden slats, while the little chicks may run back and forth, in and out, at will.



Kill the Weaklings.
One thing often overlooked, but a source of loss, is the culling or "holding over" of chicks lacking vigor. Instead of delaying for any cause destroy at once all chicks which are crippled or weakly. If sick especially this should be done. The great danger lies in the fact that they may later be overlooked and bred from, says Kate Tyson in Poultry Success. We must breed for health and vitality by rigid selection.

It may seem cruel to say burn the dead baby chicks, but it is the best way. Many cats are taught to kill the chicks by allowing the dead ones around, and if they decay and the old birds eat them it may cause serious illness. In fact, this is the cause of timber neck. Cull out often, and while the number of our flock may in some cases be much diminished, yet we find it pays.

Weak Legs.
Weak legs, so often met, is the result of disorder of the kidneys, due to a course of feeding with an unsuitable diet. Give the chicks a rather large allowance of meat or some other animal matter and some milk to drink; also some porridge made of middlings and milk. All their diet should be highly nourishing and such as can be easily digested. It is also advisable to keep them on a bed of dry chaff, and if they are in a brooder to keep down the temperature to just below 90 degrees.

Do Not Crowd the Chicks.
Do not put too many chicks in a brooder. Between 50 and 100 will do, but 50 is best. Too much or too little heat, soft and sour food and not enough exercise are the causes of bowel trouble. At present the condition of things is such that we must depend to raise our chicks with the aid of brooders. The old way is getting too slow for most people now.

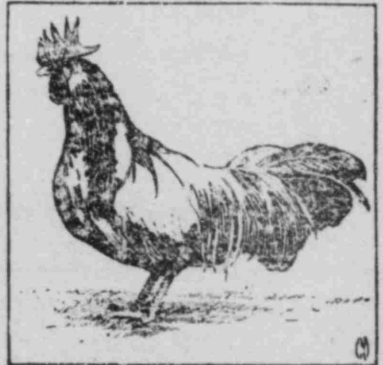
Flavor of Eggs.
The flavor of hens' eggs is declared by an English medical man to be very materially affected by food. When the hens are scavengers their eggs are made unfit to eat, but a diet of good pure grains produces remarkably fine and sweet eggs.

A LAKEFELDER COCKEREL.

A Typical Specimen of a Valuable but Little Underestimated Breed.

There has been during the last few years a good deal of discussion as to the origin of the Lakefelder (also spelled Lakevelter) fowl. By some it is asserted that this bird was developed in the middle districts of France by repeated crosses of what are now known as Faverolles and Black Minorcas with the common fowls of the section, much as the Rhode Island Reds were the result of constant introductions of Buff Orpington and the old Shanghai blood. The more reasonable view, however, is that the Lakefelder is really the native fowl of Belgium.

But no matter where he came from originally, it is certain that he deserves



LAKEFELDER COCKEREL.

to be more highly regarded in this country, where he is just beginning to make his mark. In body the Lakefelder is long, with a fine carcass and flesh of exceptionally delicate quality. Some Lakefelders (at least those which have not been overbred by too close inbreeding for feather) have proved to be as good layers as the very best strains of Leghorns, which are generally regarded as "egg machines." The Lakefelder is hardy to a degree and bears confinement exceedingly well, although he is also an excellent forager and a comparatively small eater.

The Lakefelder does well in a warm climate, but ought to be particularly valuable as a farm chicken in the colder portions of the country, for he really seems to be almost impervious to cold, the hens laying very nicely as well in winter as in summer when they are properly bred for egg production.

The Good Old Cochins.
We are pleased to notice that many writers are coming back to the old Cochins and mentioning them as most valuable for producing market poultry. says the Feather. One writer states that he yet fosters several hundred of the old Yellow Cochins of the kind that lay so many eggs. Another states that he uses Partridge Cochins exclusively for the production of winter eggs and dressed poultry for market, always emphasizing the cockerels and gaining a good profit from their sale in January. Many persons are pleased to admit the Cochins fowls as valuable for market producing stock. There was a time when the Cochins stood at the head of the list for market poultry and eggs. Too many feathers and too much cultivation along utility lines made a change in them.

Light Brahmas For Profit.
Properly fed and cared for, there are no better winter layers than the Light Brahmas pullets or yearling hens. They lay a large egg of a rich brown color. A pullet belonging to the writer, says Michael K. Boyer of Farm Journal, laid 100 eggs from Jan. 1 to June 1, and in her second season laid eighty eggs in that time. For the entire year as a pullet she laid fully 200 eggs. The exact amount we do not have, as she did not lay in a trap nest the entire year.

At eight to ten weeks of age Brahmas make choice broilers weighing a pound and a quarter to a pound and a half each. At four to five months of age they are first class roasting fowls.

Good Mash Mixtures.
There are several good mash mixtures for mashers. One is about equal parts of corn meal and wheat bran with a small amount of flour middlings. The exact proportion must be determined by the quality of the different ingredients. The object is to get a fairly rich mash that is not doughy. Neither do you want one that is too light. Another fairly good mash is what is known as ground provender, which is oats and corn ground together. All mashes should be salted.

Grit and Lime For Fowls.
It is well to keep grit and lime in the form of oyster shells within reach of the chickens all the time. It is true in a country like ours they can gather plenty of grit from the fields, but it is a matter of convenience to keep it about the house where the hens can get at it.

Ducks and Drakes.
Ducks hatched as late as May will not lay in the following winter, but will in the spring. A drake of any variety has indistinctly two small feathers in his tail turned upward, whereas a duck is deficient of this ornament.

Look Out For Cracks.
Look out for cracks in the walls near the roosts. Cold breezes are likely to give you cases of head colds or roup. Canker appears in some instances.

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